United Nations A/67/117

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 June 2012

Original: English

**Sixty-seventh session**
Item 96 (h) of the preliminary list*
**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly**

# United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in accordance with its mandate from July 2011 to June 2012.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued its assistance to Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace, security and disarmament.

In view of the devastating effects that small arms and light weapons continue to have on the socioeconomic progress and stability in the region and the challenges a number of African States face in professionalizing their defence and security forces, the work of the Regional Centre focused on efforts to curb the flow of this category of weapons and on security sector reform. The Centre provided support for the implementation of regional and subregional measures and agreements aimed at combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, such as the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention). In addition to continuing to provide training to defence and security force officers on small arms and light weapons control issues, the Regional Centre undertook more in-depth research on issues related to small arms and light weapons with a view to enhancing its effectiveness to better serve the States of the region and provide tailored assistance activities. The Regional Centre also

* A/67/50.

12-39569 (E) 090712

Please recycle

worked in partnership with the African Union and the International Action Network on Small Arms to assist Member States in preparation for an Arms Trade Treaty.

The secretariat responsibilities for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa were transferred from the Regional Centre to the United Nations Office for Central Africa. Notwithstanding, the Regional Centre continued to provide substantive and technical assistance to the Standing Advisory Committee on disarmament matters, including for the thirty-third and thirty-fourth ministerial meetings of that Committee, which were held, respectively, in Bangui, Central African Republic, and Bujumbura, Burundi.

Within its peace and security mandate, the Regional Centre contributed to assisting defence and security forces in Africa in developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions through the development of strategic plans and codes of conduct and providing professional training in civic and human rights education. These areas continue to be important in promoting peace, democracy and the rule of law.

The Regional Centre also promoted greater involvement of women in defence and security forces in an effort to support the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

The Regional Centre continues to enhance its capabilities in the fields of disarmament, peace and security. Its expertise is recognized and requests for assistance from Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa have multiplied. The mobilization of financial and human resources that can ease the efforts of the Regional Centre in responding to these requests remains a major challenge.

The Centre relies solely on voluntary contributions to implement its programmes. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre to enable it to fulfil its mandate entrusted by the General Assembly.

# Contents


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| I. | Introduction | 4 |
| II. | Functioning and mandate of the Regional Centre | 4 |
| III. | Objectives and activities of the Regional Centre | 4 |
| | A. Peace and security programme | 5 |
| | B. Small arms and light weapons programme | 7 |
| | C. Conventional arms programme | 10 |
| | D. Weapons of mass destruction programme | 11 |
| | E. Information and outreach | 11 |
| | F. Cooperation and partnerships with Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other entities | 12 |
| IV. | Operational situation of the Centre | 13 |
| | A. Financial situation | 13 |
| | B. Staffing | 13 |
| V. | Conclusion | 13 |
| Annex | | |
| | Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2011 | 15 |

# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/58, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the tangible achievements and impact of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa at the regional level and welcomed its contribution to continental disarmament, peace and security.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre for the period from July 2011 to June 2012. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Regional Centre is contained in the annex.

# II. Functioning and mandate of the Regional Centre

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was established in 1986 in Lomé, Togo, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. The Regional Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and on voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors may offer. Currently, the post of Director, one Political Affairs Officer and two support staff, as well as some operating costs, are funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. Projects and project staff are funded through voluntary contributions.

4. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre implemented its programme of work in the following main areas: peace and security; conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons; weapons of mass destruction; information and outreach; and cooperation and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other entities.

# III. Objectives and activities of the Regional Centre

5. The Regional Centre provides assistance, upon request, to Member States, the African Union and other relevant intergovernmental organizations in the promotion of disarmament, peace and security in Africa. It also works in partnership with academic/research institutions and CSOs in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities linked to disarmament, peace and security. Owing to the specific nature of security issues in Africa, the Regional Centre places emphasis on activities linked to controlling the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and to reforming defence and security forces with the respective goals of reducing armed conflict and armed violence and of developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions. The Centre provides support to African Member States and intergovernmental organizations in these areas through capacity-building and training, technical assistance, research, and information-sharing.

6. In order to better respond to requests for assistance and support — the main goals of its mandate — the Regional Centre undertook a restructuring of its programme of work shifting from a geographical to a thematic focus. As a result, the Regional Centre established five thematic programmes: the peace and security

programme; the small arms and light weapons programme; the conventional arms programme; the weapons of mass destruction programme; and the host country programme.

## A. Peace and security programme

7. Within the peace and security programme, the Regional Centre carried out several types of activities related to providing assistance to Member States in reforming defence and security forces and enhancing conflict resolution in response to requests from African Member States. The Regional Centre received eight assistance requests from the Governments of Comoros, Mali, Togo (2), and the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (2), the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union. The Regional Centre responded to the different requests by carrying out 23 substantive activities that included developing strategic plans and codes of conduct for defence and security forces; providing training for security forces in civic and human rights education; promoting gender awareness within security forces; enhancing conflict resolution measures; and supporting actions against terrorism in Africa.

### Developing strategic plans and codes of conduct for defence and security forces

8. In December 2011, the Government of Comoros through UNDP Comoros requested the Regional Centre to undertake two activities: (a) the elaboration of guidelines for the development of a strategic plan for the national police, aimed at helping to ensure consistency among the capacities of police officers as well as the tasks they must undertake in a democratic context, and (b) the elaboration of guidelines for the development of a code of conduct for defence and security forces.

9. The guidelines for the police national strategic plan provided key ideas for the police mission statement and identified focus areas which need improvement, such as professional training, equipment, and relations with other government institutions. The Regional Centre's guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces included specific suggestions on mission statements for each security force as well as on clearer divisions of labour among them.

### Strengthening the professional training of defence and security forces

10. In connection with the upcoming parliamentary elections in Togo in October 2012 and international efforts to build a stronger democracy in the country, UNDP Togo, through funding by the European Commission, requested the Regional Centre to provide assistance in evaluating the current state of civic and human rights education within military and police trainings centres, developing a manual on civic and human rights education for military and police training centres, and training instructors from the police forces on maintaining order and preventing armed violence during electoral periods. The Regional Centre started this project in June 2012.

### Promoting gender awareness within security forces

11. The Regional Centre has also been active in supporting efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) in Togo and to promote gender awareness in regional forums discussing security sector reform. Early in

2011, the Regional Centre together with Togolese Government officials and Togolese civil society members, reinitiated efforts to develop a National Action Plan on the role of Togolese women in promoting security and peaceful conflict resolution. With significant support from the Regional Centre, the national plan was validated by Togolese Government officials and civil society members in October 2011.

12. The plan calls for greater inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions and in decision-making related to government policy as well as promoting the competencies of women in negotiating and resolving conflict. The Regional Centre also initiated an awareness campaign to promote Togo's National Action Plan and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). As a result of all these activities, the number of women employed within the defence and security forces of Togo, including in senior-level positions, increased. Togo has also sent more women to participate in peacekeeping missions abroad.

**Enhancing conflict resolution efforts**

13. In response to insecurity and armed clashes in the north of Mali in early 2012, and at the request of the Government of Mali and with the support of UNDP Mali and the Government of Denmark, the Regional Centre undertook a mission to Bamako, from 3 to 6 February 2012 to assess the problems of weapons proliferation, their links to insecurity and to identify potential solutions. As a result of the mission, the Regional Centre and UNDP designed a project to take stock of the various peace initiatives and confidence-building measures that have worked in Mali in the past and made proposals for programme activities in the areas of peace, security and practical disarmament.

14. Concerning the situation in the Sahel, in March 2012, the Regional Centre provided expertise by sharing information and lessons learned related to past efforts to establish peace and reconciliation in the region at the African Union Experts Meeting on the Situation in the Sahel Region. The meeting sought to agree on priority actions on security and diplomacy, humanitarian and socioeconomic aspects, and long-term development, as well as to formulate the outline of a comprehensive plan of action.

**Supporting action against terrorism**

15. Following the Regional Centre's participation in an experts meeting held in May 2011 on the ECOWAS counter-terrorism strategy, the Regional Centre has been more engaged in activities to support agreements and training for law enforcement officers related to combating terrorism in West and Central Africa. In mid-May 2012, in Dakar, the Regional Centre provided a training session on cross-border management to senior law enforcement officers from ECOWAS member States as a part of a course on counter-terrorism.

16. During the thirty-third ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Bangui in December 2011, the Regional Centre assisted Central African States in drafting the road map for the Fight against Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Weapons in Central Africa. The road map sets as its main goal the reinforcement of cooperation among the military, police, and customs in Central African countries. In particular, the road map calls on national Governments to strengthen land borders and intelligence services, safeguard and enhance financial oversight in connection with

economic activities, monitor the origin and movement of funds and better control the possession and use of weapons, among other items.

## B. Small arms and light weapons programme

17. Within its small arms and light weapons programme, the Regional Centre engaged in activities aimed at assisting African Member States in implementing international and regional agreements to combat the illicit trade and use of small arms and light weapons. These activities included: strengthening agreements and plans of action; building the capacities of Governments and civil society on small arms control; and discovering specific small arms and light weapons control challenges through baseline assessments.

### Strengthening agreements and plans of action

18. The Regional Centre assisted in the development of several agreements and plans of action on small arms and light weapons at the regional, subregional, and national levels. As part of the African Union Regional Economic Communities Steering Committee on Small Arms, the Regional Centre continued to assist African Union efforts in developing a common strategy for the control of small arms and light weapons and a related action plan by providing substantive advice on the documents produced by the Steering Committee and helping to organize meetings to debate these issues. At a meeting held in September 2011 in Lomé, African Union governmental experts from African member States agreed to a draft strategy and action plan. The objective of these two documents is to strengthen the capacity of African Union member States, regional economic communities, regional bodies, and the African Union to implement measures against the illicit proliferation, circulation, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons as well as to promote cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information on the issue. It is expected that African States will agree to the strategy and action plan at an African Union summit meeting in July.

19. With the aim of harmonizing approaches to small arms and light weapons marking within West Africa, the Regional Centre supported ECOWAS efforts in successfully adopting a new agreement on marking small arms and light weapons in early December 2011. The Regional Centre provided technical advice on key aspects as well as suggestions for the text of the agreement. The agreement, New Standards and Unique Codes to the Marking and Tracing of Small Arms and Light Weapons for ECOWAS member States, sets slightly higher standards than other existing agreements in Africa by requiring ECOWAS member States to put a mark on each small arm and light weapon, identifying the entity responsible for the weapon such as police, military or civilian. Following the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the agreement also requires States to ensure that classical and security markings are placed on each new small arm and light weapon import and new "industrially produced" small arms and light weapons. It also tackles marking requirements for craft produced firearms. So far, the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Togo have started applying these new standards in marking their weapons. It is expected that marking would not just ease the tracing of small arms and light weapons but would contribute to preventing the diversion from governmental arsenals.

20. The Regional Centre has been actively engaged in helping the Togolese National Commission on small arms to elaborate and adopt a National Plan of Action on small arms and light weapons for the period 2012-2016. In late-December 2011, the Regional Centre supported the National Commission in finalizing and validating the National Action Plan by organizing a workshop to review the draft plan and providing substantive input regarding small arms and light weapons definitions, craft production, and subregional efforts to tackle the illicit trade and use of small arms and light weapons. At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to a final plan structured around 10 priority areas including capacity-building for key actors in small arms and light weapons and strengthening of policy, legislative, and regulatory measures. Among other items, the National Action Plan points out that Togo needs to update its procedures and controls related to recordkeeping, storage, exports, imports, and transit. The Regional Centre supports the National Commission in its efforts to address these priority items.

**Building the capacities of government and civil society on small arms control**

21. In response to requests from African Member States for training on specific aspects of small arms and light weapons control, the Regional Centre has also enhanced and developed training modules for defence and security forces, national commissions on small arms, and civil society. From August 2011 to February 2012, the Regional Centre received specific requests from Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Central African Republic on a full range of small arms and light weapons issues, such as weapons collection, identifying and tracing small arms and light weapons and related ammunition, transfer controls, stockpile management, security and safety, development of national action plans, formulation of national strategies and research on small arms and light weapons issues. While the Regional Centre was able to start work on training courses for Côte d'Ivoire and Mozambique, additional funds are needed to meet requests made by the Government of the Central African Republic.

22. In connection with the efforts of the Mozambican Police Academy to reform its overall curriculum and training, UNDP Mozambique and the Mozambican National Commission on small arms requested the Regional Centre to develop several training modules covering small arms and light weapons control. Based in part on training modules developed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre in Africa developed the following modules: overview of small arms and light weapons issues and concerns in Africa, including links with development and gender; identifying small arms and light weapons, related ammunition, and explosives; and normative controls on small arms and light weapons, including transfers, marking, recordkeeping, criminal offences, seizures, and civilian possession. Once incorporated into the professional training of the Police Academy, this information will assist police officers in properly identifying firearms for registration, tracing and criminal investigation. It would also help them to implement international, regional, and national instruments that combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

23. Early in 2012, the Regional Centre received a request from the National Commission on Small Arms in Côte d'Ivoire to provide training on several small arms and light weapons control issues for the commission, defence and security forces, and civil society. Starting in June 2012, the Regional Centre with support

from the Governments of Australia, Germany and Japan began to develop training modules on: human and community security; identifying small arms and light weapons, related ammunition, and explosives; normative controls on small arms and light weapons, including related to exports, imports, transit, borders, brokering, marking, recordkeeping, criminal offences, seizures, civilian possession, and craft production; practical disarmament measures; stockpile management and destruction; the role of civil society in practical disarmament and research techniques on small arms and light weapons. The training on stockpile management includes a guided self-assessment of several defence arms and ammunition depots.

**Discovering specific small arms and light weapons control challenges through baseline assessments**

24. There continue to be significant gaps in information on the nature and scope of small arms and light weapons trafficking in Africa. While information on these issues has increased in the last 10 years thanks to international and regional agreements and control measures on small arms and light weapons, current and comprehensive data on items such as homicides with firearms, illegal arms flows, and national laws and policies aimed at the control of small arms and light weapons are sparse. In order to develop more targeted and effective projects to reduce the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons, the Regional Centre, at the request of African Member States and in partnership with CSOs, started several projects during this reporting period to attempt to address these gaps.

25. Within this context, the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the International Action Network on Small Arms and UNDP Republic of the Congo and with the support of the Government of Australia, began a comparative study in June 2012 to assess the laws, regulations and administrative procedures related to the export, import, brokering, and transit of small arms and light weapons in the Republic of the Congo with international and regional standards. This assessment will include a review of intragovernmental coordination and national capacities for the control of small arms and light weapons. The study will also examine safety and security standards at several arms depots in the Republic of the Congo. The baseline study is expected to lay the foundation for operational remedial actions for arms control in the country.

26. Similar to projects it had completed in the past for ECOWAS, the Regional Centre was requested by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in March 2011 to provide support in implementing the Kinshasa Convention on the control of small arms and light weapons, which the Centre helped develop in 2010. In May 2012, the Regional Centre started to work on the project with these objectives: to develop a guide to harmonize national laws of the Central African State for the control of small arms and light weapons; to create a training curriculum and a training manual for defence and security forces and national commissions on small arms and light weapons control; and to translate the "Practical Guide of the Kinshasa Convention for Parliamentarians" into English and Spanish.

27. In cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organization, the Regional Centre also started a project in October 2011 to assess the nature and scope of small arms and light weapons trafficking within and among Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The objectives of the study are fivefold: to determine the source of

weapons and types of traffickers; to identify trafficking routes and an estimate of the flow of weapons; to discover illegal caches of arms; to assess the local production of arms; and to make recommendations. In order to help build the capacities of local researchers on small arms and light weapons control issues, the Regional Centre and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung hired four consultants to act as the lead researchers. The study has not yet been completed and research regarding the flow of weapons through and within these countries, as well as details on illegal caches of arms, is ongoing. Once the research is completed by July 2012, the Regional Centre and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung will develop projects aimed at addressing some of the major problems related to the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

## C. Conventional arms programme

28. As the United Nations is set to begin negotiations in July 2012 on an Arms Trade Treaty to better regulate the international trade in conventional arms, the Regional Centre conventional arms programme has engaged in various relevant activities in support of this process. The focus of these activities has been on assisting African Member States in developing a common position on the treaty, increasing the knowledge of African Member States on aspects of the proposed treaty, and providing opportunities for debate and discussion on the related issues.

### Building common positions on the Arms Trade Treaty

29. Following the adoption of common positions on the Arms Trade Treaty in West Africa in December 2010, and Central African States in March 2011, the Regional Centre provided technical support to the African Union in helping to create a draft African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty. In particular, the Regional Centre drafted a working document on the subject and helped organize a meeting of African governmental experts in September 2011 in Lomé, to assist countries to agree on a common position. The meeting resulted in an agreed draft Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is expected to be further discussed among several African Union organs.

### Enhancing knowledge and debate on the Arms Trade Treaty in Africa

30. The Regional Centre also supported efforts of African States to further discuss the Arms Trade Treaty in advance of the July negotiations in New York. In partnership with the African Union and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), and with financial support from the Government of Australia, the Regional Centre co-organized a two-day consultation in Addis Ababa, from 21 to 22 May for all African States, to discuss the elements of the future treaty. The meeting brought together 49 States Members of the United Nations from Africa and six African CSOs. The meeting contributed significantly to the substantive knowledge of African States on key aspects of the treaty. It provided a forum for African States to develop coordination strategies for the upcoming negotiations in July. During the meeting, the Regional Centre gave a presentation on the main challenges that African States face in implementing similar arms control agreements.

31. The Regional Centre also participated in several meetings organized by partner institutions to support the Arms Trade Treaty process. In March 2012, the Regional Centre attended a meeting in Nairobi, organized by the United Nations Institute for

Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) for East and Central African States, entitled, Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations through Regional Discussions and Expertise Sharing. At the meeting, the Centre gave two presentations on aspects related to the Arms Trade Treaty process and United Nations arms transparency mechanisms. In early-May 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda, at a meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty organized by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the Regional Centre also gave a presentation on pertinent issues discussed at the preparatory committee meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty in New York. Lastly, the Centre provided support to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS — South Africa) in their development of an ISS "toolkit" on the Arms Trade Treaty aimed at providing quick resource guides on this issue.

## D. Weapons of mass destruction programme

32. The Regional Centre was active in discussions with relevant stakeholders on building the capacities of African States to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In early-March 2012, the Regional Centre gave a presentation on strengthening capacity at a conference, Africa and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime organized by Wilton Park (United Kingdom) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS — South Africa). The Regional Centre has also been active in reviewing ways to support Member States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) related to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and UNODA Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch in New York, the Regional Centre continues to explore ways and means to strengthen the capacities of African Member States in their implementation of the resolution. Emphasis is placed on law enforcement, border controls and the reporting process, all of which constitute some of the major areas of assistance requested by African States.

## E. Information and outreach

33. In an effort to increase its visibility and improve its ability to inform and interact with its clients and the public, the Regional Centre developed a new communications strategy, which included the redesign of its website (www.unrec.org) and its bimonthly electronic newsletter *UNREC Focus*. The website provides, in English and French, more interactive features and information on Regional Centre expertise and current projects. Meanwhile, *UNREC Focus*, with more than 1,000 subscribers, shares information on the Regional Centre's achievements as well as on other developments related to peace, security and disarmament in Africa and at the United Nations.

34. The Regional Centre continued to promote disarmament events in Africa. As part of the disarmament week in October 2011, it held two events in Lomé, a panel discussion on arms control efforts in Africa for the local public and the media, and a showing and discussion on Togolese artwork on disarmament themes where several artists presented their disarmament-themed paintings, songs and dances. Starting in March 2012, the Regional Centre was also active in promoting the "Art for Peace" contest launched in New York by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to encourage young people to create artwork related to peace and disarmament issues.

## F. Cooperation and partnerships with Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other entities

35. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to work very closely with African Member States and maintained communication through regular visits and correspondence on specific issues of technical assistance. The Director of the Regional Centre issued letters of information to African Governments on the Regional Centre's activities, projects and resource needs. To facilitate cooperation and enhance delivery of services to Member States, the Regional Centre requested African Governments to appoint, within their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, a Regional Centre Focal Point. This enhanced communication on practical matters between the Regional Centre and the Governments which have designated such officers.

36. During the reporting period, 23 substantive activities and projects were organized with intergovernmental and civil society organizations and other entities, including United Nations agencies and field offices. In addition to the permanent observer status which the Regional Centre enjoys with the African Union and the existing memorandums of understanding it has with many institutions, during this reporting period, new cooperation agreements, through exchange of letters, funding agreements and memorandums of understanding, were initiated with Ethiopia, Australia, Germany (through the German Agency for International Cooperation — GIZ), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the African Union Commission, the Institute of Security Studies (ISS), UNDP Mozambique, UNDP Comoros, UNDP Togo and UNDP Mali. They have served as frameworks for many of the activities that have been carried out during this reporting period as detailed in the preceding paragraphs.

37. Cooperation has not been limited just to joint programmes and project execution but has also extended to participation in the events of partner institutions. Invited by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa, the Regional Centre participated in the ninth meeting of the United Nations Heads of Agencies in West Africa in Dakar, in October 2011. The meeting examined the problem of instability and insecurity in the border region of the Mano River Union (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and discussed methods to mobilize relevant stakeholders for the purposes of creating a strategy and action plan and discuss the impact of the Libyan crisis on the situation in the Sahel region. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa also visited the Centre's headquarters in January 2012 to discuss ways to strengthen the Centre's partnership with the United Nations Office for West Africa.

38. As a member of the Steering Committee of the small arms and light weapons training project of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, the Regional Centre participates regularly in the meetings of the Committee. In addition, working visits to exchange information and explore joint programmes on specific disarmament and security sector reform issues took place during the course of this reporting period. In March 2012, the Regional Centre participated in the eighth steering committee meeting of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, where its members exchanged views on emerging issues related to small arms and light weapons in West Africa, reviewed the 2012 regional small arms and light weapons training programme, and considered the operational proposals made for approval and implementation of the training courses.

39. The Regional Centre also continued to increase its partnership with the Institute of Security Studies (ISS). In addition to its assistance to the ISS project on developing a toolkit for African Member States on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Regional Centre participated in a conference, Implementing Sanctions: Prospects and Problems, organized by ISS and the International Institute on Strategic Studies, held in Nairobi, in May 2012. Participants at the meeting discussed challenges in implementing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as methods of financing and transporting arms in breach of sanctions regimes.

# IV. Operational situation of the Centre

## A. Financial situation

40. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2011, the Regional Centre received voluntary contributions from the Government of Togo and UNDP Mozambique in the amount of $78,764. During the first half of 2012, the Trust Fund also received voluntary contributions from the Government of Australia in the amount of $321,141. Information on the status of the trust fund for the Centre from July 2011 to June 2012 is contained in the annex to the present report.

41. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of those countries for their contributions and to the Government of Finland for supporting the cost of a United Nations Volunteer at the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General would also like to thank the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Germany and Japan, UNDP Offices in Comoros, Togo, Mozambique and the Republic of Congo, the National Commission on Small Arms of Côte d'Ivoire, the International Action Network on Small Arms, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for their collaboration and support of the Regional Centre's activities during this reporting period.

## B. Staffing

42. During the reporting period, the staff supported by the regular budget remains unchanged, namely, a Director (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3), one Senior Administrative and Financial Assistant (G-7), and one Information Assistant (G-6).

43. In addition to the staff indicated above, the Regional Centre, with funding from Finland, recruited one international United Nations Volunteer as Security Sector Reform Expert, who assumed duties in May 2012. The Regional Centre also has nine staff members funded through extrabudgetary resources. The Regional Centre benefited from the contributions of interns, most of whom undertook research and project support activities.

# V. Conclusion

44. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre successfully supported disarmament, security and peace initiatives with Member States and collaborated with new partners. The Regional Centre also strengthened its role at the continental

level, creating networks and partnerships at both the pan-African and the African subregional levels.

45. Furthermore, the Regional Centre benefited from the synergies it has established with United Nations agencies and programmes and the partnerships it has maintained with various NGOs and other institutions. This approach has helped in developing, over the years, an extended network of expertise in the field of disarmament, peace and security. The ability of the Regional Centre to coordinate with other institutions, and by drawing from lessons learned and best practices of the other Regional Centres in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific, have proven to be salutary to its institutional growth. These trends will continue as part of the new approach of the Regional Centre to maximize the utilization of resources and expertise through cooperation and cross-fertilization of experiences.

46. Requests from Member States and intergovernmental organizations in Africa for technical cooperation, assistance, and sharing of expertise are increasing, but need to be matched by adequate and sustainable funding. The Regional Centre has developed a fundraising strategy and a portfolio of new project proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of its activities. The project proposals are based on the requests received for assistance and reflect the realities on the ground: addressing the challenges of implementing legal disarmament instruments and norms; building the capacities of law enforcement officers; strengthening civil society; harmonizing legislation and building the capacities of the legislative bodies; reducing armed violence and collecting weapons in fragile societies. The Secretary-General wishes to encourage Member States and other donors to make financial contributions towards the continued operation of the Regional Centre.

# Annex

## Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2011

(In United States dollars)

| | |
|---|---|
| Reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2011 | 219 877 |
| Income | |
| Voluntary contributions | 37 633 |
| Funds received under inter-organization arrangements | 41 131 |
| Interest income | 5 938 |
| Other income | 25 008[a] |
| **Total income** | **109 710** |
| Expenditures | 156 068 |
| Programme support costs | 20 549 |
| **Total expenditures** | **178 617** |
| **Reserves and fund balances, as at 31 December 2011** | **150 970**[b] |

*Note:* This information is based on the statement of income and expenditures for 2011. During the period, contributions totalling $78,764 were received from the Government of Togo ($37,633) and UNDP Mozambique ($41,131).

During the period 1 January to 23 May 2012, an additional contribution totalling $321,141 was received from the Government of Australia.

[a] The total of $25,008 includes the refund of prior-period expenditures.

[b] Consists of reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2011, plus income received during 2011, less expenditure incurred during the year.